

# A Building Moratorium??

## **The Proposed Building Moratorium is an Ill-Conceived Reaction Based on Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation**

### **A Building Moratorium...**

- **DOES NOT** solve the Town's water needs.
- **WOULD HALT** growth in revenue that has accounted for more than a third of all new revenue over the last 7 years – new revenue that has allowed for much of our budget and capital progress.
- **HAS DIVERTED** valuable time and resources away from the Town's first serious effort to find an additional source of water.

# Proponents' Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation

5.0 Million Gallons per Day Maximum - Unaccounted for Water Year Over Year



2020 - we exceeded our allowable yield  
2021 - we reached our our allowable yield

**Correct Annual Totals** (finished water)

2016: 4.16 MGD  
2017 4.20 MGD  
2018 4.21 MGD  
2019 4.12 MGD  
2020 4.57 MGD (COVID Spike)  
2021 4.30 MGD

Average = 4.26 MGD

**0.74 MGD Below Allowable**

# Proponents' Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
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## RENEWAL REGISTRATION STATEMENT FOR VERIFIED WATER WITHDRAWAL

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("the Department") hereby accepts the Registration Renewal Request filed by the following Registrant pursuant to 310 CMR 36.10 for the water withdrawal described below. The Registrant is hereby authorized to withdraw up to the registered volume of water from the registered withdrawal point(s) until the expiration date, as set forth below, in compliance with M.G.L. c. 21G and 310 CMR 36.00, subject to the Registration Conditions set forth below.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration Number: 41933601

River Basin: BOSTON HARBOR

Registrant: WEYMOUTH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
120 WINTER ST  
WEYMOUTH, MA 02188

Number of registered withdrawal points: 7  
Groundwater: 4 Surface water: 3

SourceID	Type	Source Name
4336000-01G	GW	CIRCUIT AVENUE
4336000-02G	GW	MAIN STREET WELL
4336000-03G	GW	WHITMAN POND WELL
4336000-05G	GW	WINTER ST. WELL #2
4336000-01S	SW	WEYMOUTH GREAT POND
4336000-02S	SW	OLD SWAMP RIVER/SOUTH COVE
4336000-03S	SW	WHITMAN'S POND

Use: Public Water Supply

Whitman's Pond is registered with the State as:  
EMERGENCY SOURCE ONLY

Whitman's Pond is a registered source of water supply on the Town's Registration Statement as seen here.

The Town uses the South Cove of Whitman's Pond as an active water source and regards the main body of Whitman's Pond as an emergency source.

# Proponents' Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation

Proponents' Slide #7...

*2016 Agreement with the SRA - Weymouth Committed to Provide Water to the Base*

**Proponents of building moratorium failed to mention...**

**Mayor Madden signed a Water Agreement with the SRA in 2002\***

**Mayors Madden and Kay amended the Water Agreement in 2008\***

**THEN Mayor Hedlund amended the Water Agreement in 2016\***

\* Need for additional water from the MWRA was noted.

# Proponents' Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation

## Experience-Based Recommendations to Remedy UAW

### Sewer and Water Superintendents of other towns recommend:

- Hire reputable outside agent to do leak detection - according to those we interviewed, some leak detection agencies are better than others
  - Perform analyses two times per year town-wide for the first two years
    - Leak detection programs are performed at night (every street is tested)
    - Sandy soil leaks can remain undetected for a long time but leaks on ledge will surface faster
  - Prioritize the leaks
  - Even a small leak can add up over time: 8 gallons a minute is 11,000 gallons a day
  - Proof of effectiveness: In 2016 Stoughton was at 24% UAW; today, Stoughton's UAW is 3%
- **Key takeaway comments of interviewees:**
  - "Stay as self-sufficient for as long as possible"
  - "Don't surrender control of the price of your water"

## Conservation and Efficiency Programs Work!

- Conservation and efficiency programs adopted in the State of Georgia have led to **per capita demand declines of more than 30%** between 2000 and 2015.
- Santa Fe, New Mexico reached a point when developers were seeking permits, but the system had no additional water capacity. **The solution: Developers "found" water by retrofitting older homes and buildings, a process now termed "capacity buy-back"**
- Seattle achieved notable improvements in efficiency. **Between 1990 and 2010, the population in Seattle's regional service area increased by 15%, yet the water demand decreased about 30%**



Establish a water conservation plan that corrects Weymouth's water loss of a million gallons a day

## Weymouth Promotes Conservation and Addresses Unaccounted for Water (UAW) and Service Leaks.

- ✓ ANNUAL leak detection surveys of the entire water distribution system are conducted (One is ongoing). Leaks are repaired as soon as possible.
- ✓ DPW and consultants conducted a night-time flow analysis in 2021 to evaluate potential system leakage.
- ✓ Weymouth ran a customer plumbing fixture replacement (conservation) program for over 7 years and retrofitted thousands of fixtures.
- ✓ The Town charges water conservation fee for new projects. Developers may complete water conservation savings in lieu of the fee. The revenue from the fee is used to fund water system infrastructure improvements.
- ✓ DPW plans to conduct a Water Audit based on 2022 EOY data – the audit looks for leakage, meter error, and water theft.
- ✓ **Conservation will always need to be a part of our water solution.**

# Proponents' Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation

## WATER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts Updated - May 2009

The restrictions will be enforced in accordance with the following conditions that exist as of the first of the following months:

If on this date	the level of Great Pond is below this elevation*	or	the total withdrawal is greater than this volume (MG)	then	the Town will implement these restrictions
May 1	164.5 164.0 163.5 163.0		580 590 600 610		Phase One Phase Two Phase Three Phase Four
June 1	164.0 163.5 163.0 162.5		750 760 770 780		Phase One Phase Two Phase Three Phase Four
July 1	163.0 162.5 162.0 161.5		920 930 940 950		Phase One Phase Two Phase Three Phase Four
August 1	162.0 161.5 161.0 160.5		1100 1110 1120 1130		Phase One Phase Two Phase Three Phase Four
September 1	161.0 160.5 160.0 159.5		1255 1265 1275 1285		Phase One Phase Two Phase Three Phase Four

\*Maximum Great Pond elevation is 166.86 using Weymouth Base.

The above phase restrictions shall be deemed the minimal action level required. In the event that extenuating circumstances exist that exasperate the water supply situation, more stringent conditions may be imposed or a higher level of restriction may be implemented. Prior to the imposition of Phase One restrictions, the Department of Public Works shall declare a state of water emergency in accordance with the Town's ordinance.

Proponents of the building moratorium criticized a lack of water conservation measures, but the fact is...

Despite Great Pond water levels not being below 161.0' on September 1, 2022, which would have automatically triggered Phase One Restrictions, we instituted mandatory water conservation measures at Phase Two Levels!

Before that, we issued voluntary water conservation measures. Other communities hit their trigger level for mandatory restrictions before Weymouth did.

Since we instituted mandatory water conservation measures on September 1, the level of Great Pond has risen over a foot to 162.2'

# Proponents' Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation

## Metering

- Develop and implement a *high-end* water meter replacement program throughout the Town - consider steps to ensure timely replacement
- Require sub-metering on multi-family dwellings and monthly billing based on actual metered consumption
- Address outdoor/landscape watering
- Require WaterSense, or similarly-labeled products, where practicable
  - WaterSense Programs make the best use of available water and build resilience to water shortages

Agreed – We expect an improved water meter replacement program to be a likely result of Water Audit.

Allowed for Condos – not practical for apartments (rentals) as the Town needs to have the ability to lien property owner if bills aren't paid.

Already Addressed.  
Premium rates and no separate meters.

New construction is required to follow State Plumbing Codes.



# Proponents' Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation

## Purpose of a Moratorium:

- To ensure consistent and future water capacity is available to the Town of Weymouth
- To obtain the water management permit before any further Town development
- Exploration of water infrastructure improvement, including hiring a reputable consulting firm for analysis, insights and recommendations for a Water Loss Minimization Program (for **all** water users throughout the town)
- Revision/development/implementation of policies (ordinances) to improve water conservation (residential, commercial, and industrial properties)
- Implementation of submetering on all multifamily dwellings
- Put into place an effective water meter replacement program
- Development of a current drought management plan
- Craft a conservation rate structure ← could include monthly billing on meter consumption
- New construction shall **contribute** to infrastructure improvements
- The DPW currently has oversight over our town's water supply; **provide the DPW with the tools necessary** to take preventive and corrective actions to improve water management throughout the Town

A Building Moratorium DOES NOT ensure future water capacity – joining the MWRA would. This is first serious effort to establish a water solution.

The Town HAS a WMA interim permit while being reviewed and renewed.

Enhanced water meter replacement program will be addressed by our water audit.

Town has a working drought management plan.

Conservation rate structure in place – increasing block rates (premium rates at certain usage).

Developers currently contribute to system improvements when existing infrastructure cannot support project – work and/or fees.



# Proponents' Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation

West Cove: Why water conservation is crucial now



West Cove of Whitman's Pond showing extensive vegetation overgrowth - 2022

Mr. Dowd renders his professional observations/hopes for the future about water entering/exiting Whitman's Pond



**The Hedlund Administration has taken real action to protect our water supply and natural resources and habitat.**

It was made clear in this video with Mr. Dowd that vegetation growth is due to nutrient loading of Whitman's Pond (nitrogen and phosphorus). This issue **will not** be improved by Water Conservation.

We still agree that it would be more ideal to limit the movement of water in Whitman's Pond as currently done by the Herring Warden and DPW. **Establishing the MWRA as a supplemental source of water could limit the need to rely on Whitman's Pond as such a water source.**

In addition to working to find an alternative water supply solution, **Mayor Hedlund hired a consultant to develop a long-term Whitman's Pond Management Strategy and prepared a Notice of Intent to DEP.** **The overall goal of Mayor Hedlund's long-term Management Strategy is to control nuisance aquatic vegetation while improving aesthetic value, recreational value, native plant habitat, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality.**

# Proponents' Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation



But won't the town lose revenues if we adopt a moratorium?



No. The building moratorium plans in Dedham and Saugus indicated there was no loss of revenues. The Moratorium will provide long-term solutions for responsible growth.

This is the most incorrect statement made by the proponents of the building moratorium. Dedham and Saugus revenue collection has ZERO meaning to Weymouth revenue.

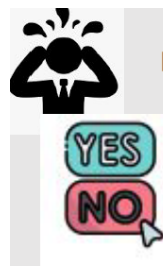
## BOTTOM LINE:

A Building Moratorium = Less New Building Applications = **Less Building Permit Revenue**

A Building Moratorium = Less New Redevelopment = **Less Tax Levy New Growth Revenue**

A Building Moratorium = Less New Water/Sewer Applications = **Less Connection and Mitigation Revenue**

# Proponents' Faulty Assumptions and Misinformation



But won't the town lose revenues if we adopt a moratorium?

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	Building		
	New Growth	Permit Revenue	
	<u>Annual Average</u>	<u>Annual Average</u>	
2011-2016	\$714,857	\$899,409	Minimal Redevelopment
2016 (Southfield)	\$2,109,888		
2017-2023	\$1,898,669	\$2,319,199	Responsible Redevelopment
Redevelopment Annual Revenue Impact	\$1,183,812	\$1,419,790	Total Annual Revenue Impact \$2,603,602

# Budget Impact of a Building Moratorium

## Budget Impact on Redevelopment Revenue

2016 Budget     \$149,589,688

2023 Budget     \$190,306,660

\$40,716,972

27.2%

Budget Growth Under Mayor Hedlund

2017-2023

New Growth

\$13,290,684

33% New Growth as % of Budget Growth

Previous Avg.

\$5,003,999

\$8,286,685

20% Additional New Growth as % of Budget Growth

2017-2023

Permit Revenue

\$16,234,393

Previous Avg.

\$6,295,863

\$9,938,530

24% Additional Permit Revenue as % of Budget Growth

## Breakdown of Budget Growth FY 2016 – FY 2023

Total     \$40,716,972

Schools     \$19,189,305

Police/Fire     \$ 5,547,162

State Assmt     \$ 4,538,424

Health Ins     \$ 3,501,070

Retirement     \$ 3,301,116

Asset Mgt     \$ 1,106,285

Other Depts     \$ 2,158,007

# The Town Vision

Key Takeaway: There is no “us” versus “them”.  
*It is all “us”*



## **Vision statement:**

To ensure a sustainable water supply in Weymouth while  
preserving and protecting our environment

## **Town of Weymouth's Vision**

- ✓ Solve Water Demand for Foreseeable Future.
- ✓ Ensure Environmental Protection/Conservation and Expansion of Natural Resources/Habitat.
- ✓ Realize Full Potential of Southfield/Union Point
- ✓ Revitalize Village Centers and Commercial Corridors
- ✓ Eliminate PFAS Concerns, Improve Water Quality
- ✓ Expand Passive Recreational Opportunities

# Submitted Questions

## 1. Correspondence with DEP

- November 25, 2009 – Weymouth DPW submits a Water Management Act (WMA) Permit Renewal Application to DEP.
- February 26, 2010 – Weymouth receives Interim WMA Permit.
- November 19, 2010 – Weymouth DPW responds to DEP's Order to Complete (OTC) dated October 6, 2010.
- March 8, 2022 – DEP responds to Town's submittal dated November 19, 2010 requesting additional information for the WMA Permit Renewal.
- April 25, 2022 – Weymouth DPW requests an additional 12 months to prepare responses to DEP's March 8<sup>th</sup> request for information.
- May 17, 2022 – DEP sends e-mail granting Weymouth an extension of time to prepare responses to the March 8<sup>th</sup> WMA OTC.
- October 17, 2022 – DEP sends and e-mail requesting that Weymouth prepare and submit responses to the WMA OTC by December 7, 2022 – **update: submitted on December 5, 2022**

# Submitted Questions

## **1. Request for an Increase in allowable Yield.**

- No. The Town is not planning to request an increase in the allowable yield under the WMA.

## **1. When will the Town receive the WMA renewal.**

- The Town provided DEP with the information requested on December 5, 2022. The schedule for renewing the Town's WMA Permit will be up to DEP. It has been over 13 years since the Town of Weymouth submitted its WMA Permit Renewal Application. Since that time, the Town has been operating under an Interim WMA Permit, which extended the requirements of the original WMA Permit.



# Submitted Questions

## **2(a) Water Management Plan**

This has been addressed in great detail in previous meetings. The requirements of the Water Management Plan were followed and the Town's actions exceed what was required. Phase 2 water restrictions were implemented in September.

## **2(b) Water Conservation Measures**

Yes. The Town still charges the noted water conservation fee for new projects. However, developers are welcome to complete water conservation savings in lieu of paying the fee. The revenue of the fee is used to fund water system infrastructure improvements.

## **2(c) Leak Detection**

The last leak detection survey was completed in February 2022. The Town is currently conducting another leak detection survey this month. Leak detection work is solicited from companies specializing in the work. The name of the firm that conducted the leak detection survey in 2022 is New England Water Distribution Services.

## **3. Sanitary Sewer Investigation**

Yes. The investigation was conducted by Inland Waters, LLC who was this year's low bidder. This has been addressed in great detail in previous meetings. The requirements of the Water Management Plan were followed and the Town's actions exceed what was required.

# Submitted Questions

## 4 and 13. Current Permits

Currently Under Construction			Estimated	Mitigation
Address	Units	Bedrooms	GPD	Fees
46 Union Street	14	28	1,400	\$83,160
44 Wharf Street	86	123	8,600	\$308,556
122 Washington	28	62	2,800	\$118,800
1431-39 Main	165	171	16,500	\$445,500
15-17 Front	24	44	2,400	\$118,800
655 Washington Street	160	203	16,000	\$566,973
88 Pleasant Street	30	41	3,000	\$110,700
1325 Washington Street	270	406	27,000	\$1,211,490
1197 & 1215 Washington	147	167	14,700	\$516,699
1441 Commercial Street	23	23	2,300	\$62,100
Total	947	1268	94,700	\$3,542,778
* Estimated gallons/day based on 100gpd/unit				

Current construction permits will generate an additional \$3.5m in mitigation to fund capital improvements

100,000gpd of new metered usage will generate approximately \$1M in annual user fees which would offset potential rate increases for residents

# Submitted Questions

## 5. Withdrawn Water in 2022

	WMA	Winter Well #1	Total
	Registered	WMA	WMA
Year	Finished (MGD)	Permitted (MGD)	Volume (MGD)
2016	4.14	0.02	4.16
2017	4.13	0.07	4.20
2018	4.21	0.00	4.21
2019	4.03	0.10	4.12
2020 (COVID)	4.56	0.00	4.57
2021	4.20	0.11	4.30
2022, YTD Nov	<b>4.34</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>4.39</b>
Average	4.23	0.05	4.28
Limit	4.51	0.49	5.00

For Reference  
2014: 4.32 MGD  
2001: 4.53 MGD

# Submitted Questions

6. When upgrades or repairs are needed to facilitate a specific project, it is the financial responsibility of the developer to make those upgrades. If adequate infrastructure already exists, obviously none would be needed.

The Town and its Boards are legally limited in the mitigation that can be demanded from a developer. We cannot legally demand mitigation for offsite improvements not directly related to the specific project.

**HOWEVER**, each multi-family project pays enormous sewer and water impact fees which goes to repair and upgrades of the water and sewer systems town wide. These fees are the major source of revenue for the Town's ongoing maintenance of the system.

History of fees paid:

MITIGATION FEES:	BUDGET	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18
WATER MITIGATION FEES	\$100,000	\$342,624	\$669,860	\$288,313	\$442,628	\$233,103
SEWER CONNECTION FEES	\$125,000	\$232,188	\$485,566	\$224,323	\$301,272	\$248,587
SEWER MITIGATION FEES	\$200,000	\$387,388	\$740,144	\$332,143	\$461,968	\$270,000
Totals	\$425,000	\$962,200	\$1,895,570	\$844,779	\$1,205,868	\$751,690
	(2% Budget)					
					5 year total	\$5,660,107

# Submitted Questions

## 7 and 14. Loss of Grants

We have no way of forecasting what state grants will become available in the next 18 months.

Over the past eight years, we estimate that the Town has received at least **\$10,420,875** from grants that would be jeopardized. This number is based on the following breakdown:

- 1) Smelt Brook Daylighting: MassWorks: \$1,601,000, Culvert \$640,000
- 2) Jackson Square Land Use Study: \$23,500 Community Compact, \$50,000 EEA Planning
- 3) Columbian Square Preliminary Engineering: \$183,000 Housing Choice
- 4) Columbian Square Parking, Marketing and Land Use Study, One Stop: \$75,000
- 5) Fort Point Road: \$102,000 Phase 2A planning EEA Dam and Seawall, \$114,000 Phase 2B BRIC planning Pending Award
- 6) Lane Beach: \$183,375 planning EEA Dam and Seawall Pending Award
- 7) Wessagusset Walk: \$1M Construction-SEC 2020-2021 Awarded
- 8) Commercial Street Bridge: \$600,000 Remaining from former Small Bridge 2020 Awarded, \$500,000 Construction-DOT Small Bridge Program Pending Award
- 9) Broad Street Bridge: \$150,000 Planning- Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance-Pending, \$500,000 Construction-DOT Small Bridge-Pending
- 10) Moore and Woodrock Roads: \$150,000 Hydrological Study-MVP-Pending
- 11) 10 Washington Street Brownfield Assessment: \$70,000-One Stop- EOHCD- Pending
- 12) Middle Street Turing Lane - Libbey Industrial Parkway: \$3,157,000 One Stop-MassWorks-Pending
- 13) Emery Estate: \$297,000 Construction-One Stop-Underutilized Properties-Pending, \$250,000 Construction-Destination Development Capitol Grant-Pending
- 14) Osprey Overlook Park, Land and Water Conservation Fund \$175,000
- 15) Brad Hawes Park, Our Common Backyards, \$200,000
- 16) King Oak Hill Park, Parkland Acquisitions & Renovations for Communities, \$400,000

# Submitted Questions

## **8. MBTA Zoning**

The new legislation requires a total of 50 acres to be made available for by-right multi-family development. All 50 acres must be within a half mile of a commuter rail station and one area of at least 25 contiguous acres must be created. The legislation is clear that existing multi-family developments can be included and counted towards compliance. As such, our intention is to focus on two areas which are at near build out. First, the southern end of Route 18 capturing recently built large multi-family projects as well as existing developments within Union Point. We believe that 50 acres can be identified in this area that have already been fully developed. Second, if needed, the Village Center Overlay which covers Weymouth Landing consists of another 12 acres. Again, this area is at near full build-out so its inclusion will not open up new sites for development. In short, yes, we can confirm that the multi-family development that has already occurred will count towards our compliance with the new zoning.

## **9. Union Point**

Continued permitting in Union Point? We have not issued a building permit for Union Point since 2018 and the administration has been clear that, until the issue of water has been addressed, no building permits will be issued. This is among the numerous reasons that exploring a relationship with MWRA is prudent.

# Submitted Questions

## 11. UAW Reduction

Yes, Weymouth aggressively addresses Unaccounted for Water (UAW)

- ✓ Consultants are hired to conduct ANNUAL leak detection surveys of the entire water distribution system. One such survey is currently ongoing.

Leaks are repaired as soon as possible.

- ✓ DPW plans to conduct a Water Audit based on 2022 EOY data.

The audit looks for leakage, meter error, and water theft.

- ✓ DPW expected to implement new water meter replacement program as a result of audit.



# Submitted Questions

12. Protecting environmentally sensitive areas around water resources.

## **Water supply protection**

The state, through the drinking water regulations (310 CMR 22) has designated 3 tiers (zone A-C) of “Water Supply Protection Areas” that regulate certain activities (like underground storage of fuel, livestock, sewage etc.) within these zones. The Town has water supply and ground water supply protection areas in its zoning.

# Redevelopment is Improving Weymouth

Much of the recent redevelopment in Town consists of degraded sites with large areas of impervious surface, minimal or no stormwater treatment, minimal landscaping or tree cover, and often times degraded wetlands. Stormwater is typically directed to nearby wetlands or waterbodies, including Whitman's pond, without removal of sediments or pollutants. This leads to sediment buildup and degraded water quality.

All redevelopment in town *for sites larger than 1 acre* must meet the Massachusetts stormwater standards for redevelopment, this typically means that stormwater needs to be infiltrated into the ground, and suspended solids removed. Redevelopment projects result in a significant reduction in stormwater discharge and an improvement in water quality.

Redevelopment of sites within conservation jurisdiction must be permitted by the conservation commission. Often times through the permitting process, the commission works with an applicant to create a project that results in an improvement to the wetlands, beyond just improvements to stormwater management. This may include restoration and clean-up of wetlands and buffer zones, enhanced landscaping and native plantings and management of invasive species that can continue beyond completion of the project. This process results in sites that are ecologically healthier and more aesthetically pleasing.

# Redevelopment is Improving Weymouth

Improvements to recent redevelopment by site include:

## **44 Wharf St**

- ✓ Improved stormwater management, reduced discharge to back river.
- ✓ Clean-up and turnover to Town adjacent waterfront land
- ✓ Sediment removal from nearby stream

## **Boston Motel**

- ✓ Improved stormwater management, reduced discharge to Whitman's pond
- ✓ Clean up and restoration of wetlands and buffer zone on site.
- ✓ Management of invasive Japanese knotweed

## **Aeronaut**

- ✓ Improved stormwater management
- ✓ Clean up and restoration of wetlands and buffer
- ✓ Management of invasive species

## **200 Libbey Industrial Parkway**

- ✓ Improved stormwater management, reduced discharge to Whitman's pond

# Why the MWRA?

## Not a New Need - Our Goals.

- Solve Water Demand for Foreseeable Future.
- Realize Full Potential of Former South Weymouth Air Base
- Revitalize Village Centers and Commercial Corridors
- Reduce Reliance on Current Environmentally Sensitive Water Sources
  - Protect Resources and Habitat
- Eliminate PFAS Concerns, Improve Water Quality

*“The town has an agreement with base officials ... but any needs beyond that will have to come from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.”*

-Patriot Ledger, November 13, 2007

## Most Viable Option

*“The MWRA regional water supply is the only viable choice for long term supply of the projected water demands in Weymouth with the ultimate ability to provide redundancy and replace the Town’s current supplies.”*

-Town of Weymouth Water and Sewer Capacity Analysis, Environmental Partners (11/2022)

# Why the MWRA?

## **The Time is NOW.**

In September 2022, the MWRA Board of Directors approved a proposal, as recommended by the MWRA Advisory Board, to **waive for five years the Entrance Fee for new communities** meeting certain criteria. We have been told that Weymouth meets the criteria. Depending on final volume requested, Weymouth would save millions of dollars with entrance fee waiver.

As approved, the waiver extends through calendar year 2027, for a total maximum of up to 20 million gallons per day (MGD) being sought by new communities. With the amount available to new communities capped, there is no time for delay.

Other funding is available to assist communities in reducing the cost of an MWRA project.

The MWRA Expansion Study shows increasing demand for water South of Weymouth, which could allow for the possibility of additional revenue by wheeling water South through Weymouth.

# Benefits of the MWRA?

**Abundant Water Supply:** MWRA is now 100 million gallons per day below its safe yield. MWRA would not need to impose mandatory water use restrictions, even in severe drought.

**Excellent Water Quality:** MWRA has reliably excellent water quality due to its well protected watersheds and large reservoirs. Award winning water in several blind taste tests. PFAS levels are too low to quantify and well below both federal or state existing and expected guidelines and standards.

**Water Quality Sampling and Reporting:** MWRA provides routine compliance reporting to DEP on behalf of each community for all rules. MWRA maintains a water quality hotline for consumers.

**Local Water System Assistance Program:** This program provides financial assistance (currently \$725 million in 10-year, zero-interest loans to 47 member communities) for local water system improvements.

**Training:** MWRA provides several opportunities each year for community staff training at no cost. MWRA arranges for the receipt of Training Contact Hours (TCHs) for participants as required by DEP for all licensed water operators.

**Management of Compliance with New DEP and EPA Requirements:** Being part of the regional MWRA system removes the burden of uncertainty from communities that new rules could require capital investments or changes in operations or monitoring. For full service member communities, these changes become the responsibility of MWRA.